



### Turmoil with consequences

The effects of the trade war between the USA and China, the near-recession status of Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as a landslide making a key French railway mainline dysfunctional have caused a downturn in Combined Transport during the second quarter of the year. The sentiment of CT actors has stayed 'neutral' in the face of uncertainties caused by the European Parliament elections of 25 May, which do not promise an easy path to ensuring a working majority in favour of European-level solutions on issues of transportation.

European legislative work has not progressed since April. The European Parliament gathered since the election only to elect its President and the chairs of its committees, as well as to appoint the rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs of the open legislative dossiers. Once legislative work, including dialogue negotiations, resume in September, the Finnish EU Council Presidency intends to focus on the road legislation almost agreed in April. UIRR raised its voice against subordinating the amendment of the Combined Transport Directive to the road legislation as Combined Transport should be viewed separately – as a standalone method of longer distance freight transport distinct from unimodal alternatives. Finally, the arrival of the new Commissioner for Transport, due as of 1 November, is also likely to further delay any dialogue negotiation.

The various ongoing uncertainties do not support the continuation of the nearly 5% year-on-year growth of Combined Transport that was reported during the UIRR General Assembly for 2018. While curbing climate change is an unequivocal top priority of the European electorate, political sensitivities related to the measures that would deliver it in freight transport will likely require a prolonged preparation. The amendments to the road legislation contained in the Mobility Packages could be a first step alongside the progressive updating of the Combined Transport Directive. A proposal to amend the fossil fuel excise duty directive, and the parallel abandonment of fossil fuel subsidies by Member States, should follow on the initiative of the new European Commission.

The quality performance of rail freight should be supported through the amendment of the Rail Freight Corridor Regulation. The continued upgrading of the railway infrastructure – with an increased focus on the needs of freight trains – should be supported by an effective CEF Transport programme – to be approved as part of the 7-year EU budget package.

UIRR has put forward its proposals for the 2019-2024 EU legislative period in a position paper unveiled on 11 July. The paper contains 13 action points directed towards the European legislators, as well as to the new European Commission. It is certain that the climate crisis cannot be averted without a paradigm shift in EU transport policy.

At the Ordinary General Assembly of UIRR Metrans, VIIA and Wiencont have been welcomed as new members, while Combipass, GATX, Railwatch and Wielton joined as Partners. MoUs were signed with RFG of the UK, USER of Romania and UIC the global association of railways.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President



**UIRR Digital Forum**  
- EU intermodal digital roadmap  
Brussels, 26 September 2019



**Final Conference**  
- presentation of project results  
Brussels, 5 November 2019

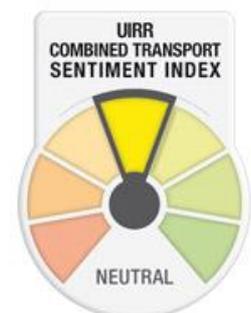
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#### UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



#### Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020



## Performance of Rail Freight

### Logistics sector calls for prioritizing rail freight needs in Germany

May 2019

The German logistics sector criticised governmental attitudes overly focused on passenger railway services both when allocating train paths (access rights to the railway network) and in the choice of rail infrastructure investment projects.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1190-regierungskoalition-prioritaet-fuer-die-schiene.html>

### NGOs call for rail freight at heart of mobility plan in Belgium

May 2019

An alliance of NGOs and sector players appealed to transport politicians in Belgium to devise a freight transport strategy that places rail freight at its heart to reduce congestion as well as to boost the sustainability of freight logistics.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1180-belgian-national-mobility-pact-adopt-a-true-mobility-policy.html>

### New study defines roadmap to doubling rail freight by 2035

May 2019

A study commissioned by NEE and VPI of Germany defined the roadmap of actions needed to achieve a doubling of rail freight until 2035.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1196-studie-zeigt-chancen-zur-verdoppelung-des-schienueterverskehrs-bis-2035.html>

### Private capital flows slowly into the railway sector

May 2019

A recent study by Roland Berger Consultants have found that private funding of railway rolling stock falls short of desirable and feasible levels due to imperfect implementation of EU rail policy.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1204-private-funds-for-rolling-stock-surges-but-slowly.html>

### Landslide in France puts RNE Contingency Handbook to the test

July 2019

The mudslide in Southeast France has rendered a double track main railway line dysfunctional, which is integral part of the North Sea-Mediterranean Rail Freight Corridor. Initially the closure was foreseen to last for over a month. Ultimately the line was reopened a week sooner. Traffic was managed along the procedures contained in the RNE Contingency Management Handbook.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1244-mudslide-halts-rail-traffic-between-france-and-italy-until-mid-august.html>

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1243-many-trains-cancelled-some-rerouted-between-france-and-italy.html>

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1261-update-disruption-maurienne-valley.html>

### China and Russia open transcontinental rail to new cargo types

June 2019

China has removed restrictions that prevented the shipping of certain types of dangerous goods, while Russia removed sanctions on previously sanctioned foodstuffs and agricultural products opening up the possibility for the shipping of these in containers using the transcontinental railway lines between Europe and Asia.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1228-china-to-lift-restrictions-dangerous-goods-by-rail.html>

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1254-rfcom-fresh-norwegian-salmon-on-the-train-to-china.html>

## Mode-neutral, Fair Regulatory Framework

### Shippers and modal actors agree on investment into digitalisation

June 2019

Shippers, modal service providers and technology providers discussed the issue of digitalisation in the logistics sector at the Transport Logistic Expo in Munich. It was agreed that a huge investment is necessary to deliver the services demanded by the market

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1214-digitalization-logistics-providers-invest-and-hope-for-the-best.html>

### The intermodal sector's EU transport policy expectations

July 2019

UIRR formulated into a position paper the expectations of the intermodal sector concerning the necessary transport policy measures for the 2019-2024 legislative period. The paper contains 13 clearly drafted recommendations to be implemented by the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2019/mediacentre/1233-uirr-roadmap-of-cts-eu-transport-policy-expectations-2019-2014.html>

## New distance-based toll to fund modal shift enabling projects

June 2019

The transport sector is recommending to the Ministry of Transport in The Netherlands to use the proceeds from a distance-based road tolling scheme for projects that will result in modal shift (from road to rail and other modes). The scheme is nearing finalisation.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1247-vrachtwagenheffing-inzetten-voor-modal-shift-naar-spoor.html>

## Monopoly Commission calls for the break-up of the DB Group

July 2019

The German Federal Monopolies Commission has completed an inspection of the DB Group concluding in a recommendation to break away the transport business from the division dealing with managing the railway infrastructure.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1259-german-monopolies-commission-calls-for-break-up-of-db.html>

Link: [https://www.monopolkommission.de/images/PDF/SG/7sg\\_bahn\\_volltext.pdf](https://www.monopolkommission.de/images/PDF/SG/7sg_bahn_volltext.pdf)

### *Enhancement of Intermodal Transport*

## European Combined Transport reaches record levels in 2018

May 2019

The General Assembly of UIRR has adopted the UIRR Report 2018-19, which contains the statistics of 2018 performance of the sector. The 2018 growth of European Combined Transport reached 5% at nearly 8,6 million TEU transported.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2019/mediacentre/1189-uirr-press-release-2018-a-decisive-year-for-combined-transport.html>

## FIATA issues best practice guidelines to enhance container transport

June 2019

FIATA makes several recommendations how to improve container-based transport in its latest best practice guideline.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1223-fiata-publishes-best-practices-to-enhance-container-shipping.html>

## If rail freight is to be doubled, intermodal volumes must triple

July 2019

The Rail Freight Forward initiative aims to double rail freight performance in Europe by 2030. Considering that intermodal cargo is carried on every second freight train, and it is the only growing segment of rail freight, this means that intermodal volumes must triple to achieve the goal.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1237-if-rail-must-be-doubled-intermodal-must-be-tripled.html>

## Belgian logistics sector asks for government support to modal shift

July 2019

The Belgian rail Freight Forum and FEBETRA have jointly appealed to the government to introduce support measures to stimulate a shift to rail and other sustainable modes of transport.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1236-40-for-each-unit-shifted-from-road-to-rail-or-waterways.html>

## Port of Rotterdam effectively facilitates shift from truck to train

July 2019

The Port Shuttle project of the Port of Rotterdam has effectively shifted cargo from truck to railway in the congested port area.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1239-from-truck-to-train-in-port-of-rotterdam.html>

## Large-scale EU project launched to advance digitalisation in logistics

May 2019

UIRR joined the FENIX Project, which aims to develop the first European federated architecture for data sharing serving the European logistics sector of shippers, logistics service providers, transport operators, cities, and authorities to offer interoperability between any individual existing and future platforms.

Link: <http://www.fenix-project.eu/>

## Revised UIRR guidelines on Dangerous Goods in intermodal issued

July 2019

The Dangerous Goods experts of UIRR have revised the popular Dangerous Goods Guidelines, which may be downloaded from the UIRR website in 8 European languages.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/leaflet-and-studies/mediacentre/1251-leaflet-on-dangerous-goods-version-2019.html>

## Personnel News

### EP TRAN COMMITTEE

11 July



**Karima Delli**, has assumed the Chair of the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee in 2016. Ms Delli, hailing from the Greens, has been re-elected to continue as TRAN Chair by the newly formed European Parliament. Her mandate will last until the end of 2021.

### UIC

1 July



**Francois Davenne** has been announced as Director General of UIC at the UIC General Assembly held on 25 June in Budapest. The appointment will take effect on 1 July 2019 with a four-year mandate. Mr Davenne succeeds Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, who served as Director General of UIC for over ten years. UIC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UIRR in which the two associations have mutually pledged to support each other's aims.

## Members' News

### HUPAC

June 2019

Hupac and Duisport to intensify cooperation.

Click: <https://www.hupac.com/EN/Expansion-of-China-transport-and-strengthening-of-the-Duisburg-terminal-area-6ef23400>

### KOMBIVERKEHR

May 2019

Project to develop digital train monitor launched.

Click: [https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/presse/Press\\_Releases/Kombiverkehr\\_launches\\_digital\\_train\\_monitor\\_pilot\\_project\\_2](https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/presse/Press_Releases/Kombiverkehr_launches_digital_train_monitor_pilot_project_2)

### KOMBIVERKEHR

July 2019

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the company's founding.

Click: [https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/about\\_us/50\\_years\\_of\\_Kombiverkehr/](https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/about_us/50_years_of_Kombiverkehr/)

### LINEAS

July 2019

Rail and transport federations come together to support mobility

Click: <https://lineasintermodal.net/en/news/febetra>

## Key Dates & Events

15-18 September, Long Beach	IANA Intermodal Expo 2019
19-21 September 2019, Nursultan	CCTT Plenary Meeting
25 September 2019, Paris	OptiYard Project final conference
25 September 2019, Brussels	ELP European Logistics Event
26 September 2019, Bucharest	Eastern Europe Connected Conference
26 September 2019, Brussels	UIRR Intermodal Digitalisation Forum
8-9 October 2019, Bucharest	Railway Days Conference
9-10 October 2019, Duisburg	RALP RFC Terminal Advisory Group Meeting
18-19 October 2019, Trieste	IBS Conference
28-29 October 2019, Vilnius	OTIF Symposium
29-30 October 2019, Bremen	BME/VDV Intermodal Conference
5 November 2019, Venlo	ELETA Project Final Conference, Brussels
6 November 2019, Brussels	FERRMED Conference
26-27 November 2019, Venlo	European Silk Road Summit
28 November 2019, Brussels	FEPOR 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR ROAD-RAIL  
COMBINED TRANSPORT**

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